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JUL 19 2004

Application No.: 09/890,139

Docket No.: GROTH 3.3-026

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A method for continuously producing lignocellulose-containing boards comprising providing a mat of disintegrated, glue-coated and dried lignocellulose-containing material, pressing said mat into a board in a steam injection press, ~~conditioning said board by drawing a predetermined volume of air having a predetermined moisture content at a predetermined temperature through said board by means of suction applied through said board so as to condition said board,~~ and grinding said conditioned board to a final thickness directly following said conditioning step.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said conditioning of said board comprises a first conditioning of said board by drawing a first predetermined volume of air having a first predetermined moisture content at a first predetermined temperature through said board in a first direction by means of suction applied through said board, and including a second conditioning of said board by drawing a second predetermined volume of air having a second predetermined moisture content at a second predetermined temperature through said board in a second direction by means of suction applied through said board, wherein said second direction is opposite to said first direction.

8. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said pressing of said mat into said board provides a board having a pair of surface layers and a center layer, and wherein said pair of surface layers and said center layer have substantially the same density.

9. (withdrawn) Apparatus for continuously providing lignocellulose-containing boards from a mat of disintegrated, glue-coated and dried lignocellulose-containing material, said apparatus comprising a steam injection press for pressing said

mat into a board, conditioning means comprising an air supply unit for passing said air through said board as said board passes through a conditioning zone, and a grinder for grinding said conditioned board to a final thickness directly following said conditioning zone.

10. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said conditioning means comprises first conditioning means comprising a first air supply unit for passing said air through said board in a first direction and including second conditioning means comprising a second air supply unit for passing said air through said board in a second direction, said second direction being opposite to said first direction.